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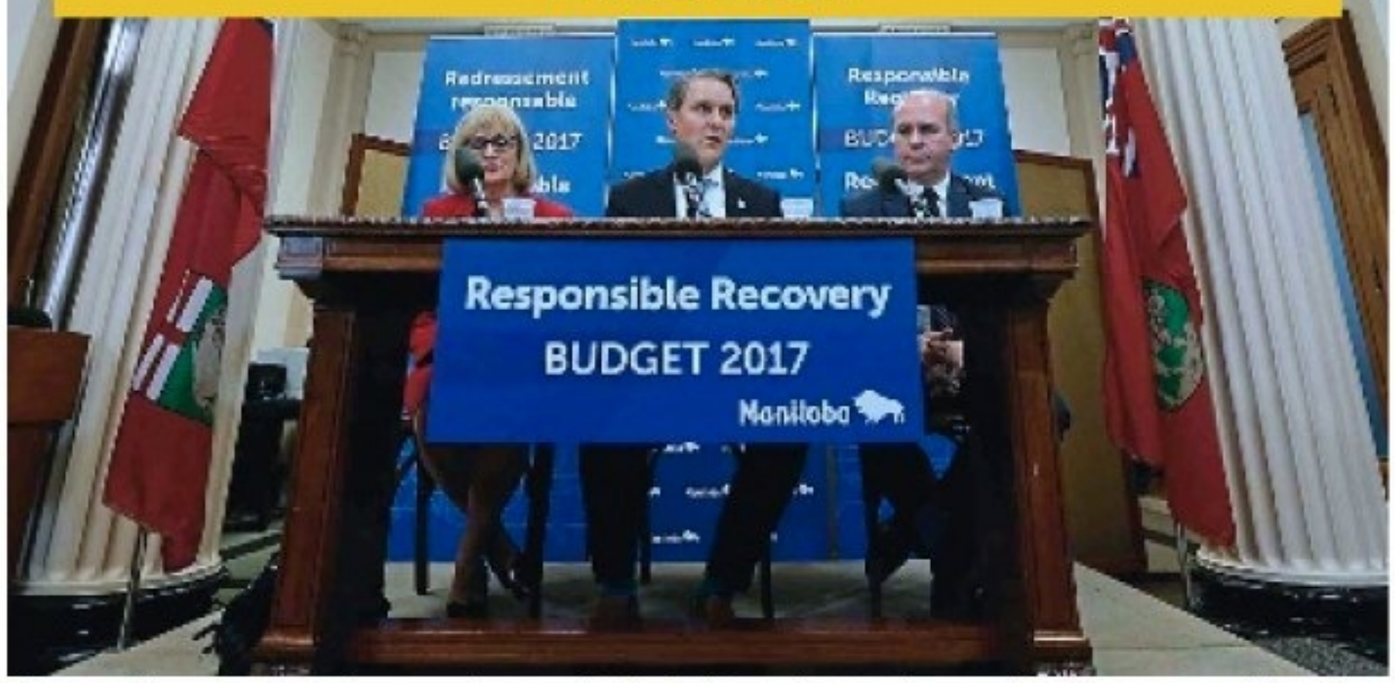
metroLIFE

MANITOBA BUDGET 2017

STANDING PAT

- NO TAX HIKES
- MORE DAYCARE SPOTS
- BYE-BYE TUITION REBATE
- NO WORD ON MINIMUM WAGE

metroNEWS



Finance Minister Cameron Friesen speaks to media, flanked by Janice MacKinnon and David Angus, co-chairs of the Advisory Panel on Fiscal Performance, before the provincial budget is read Tuesday. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bowman applauds funding for city

REACTION

Mayor says balance is key in provincial budget

Braeden Jones
Metro | Winnipeg

Manitoba's budget isn't offering the City of Winnipeg anything new, but Mayor Brian Bowman is welcoming more of the same.

The mayor had relatively few specific comments on the provincial budget tabled Tuesday, as he said city staff will "have to do a lot of reading over the fine print over the coming days," but he did applaud Premier Brian Pallister's clear attempt to chip away at a daunting deficit.

"I want to see the provincial budget brought into balance," Bowman said. "Bringing the provincial budget into balance is something that Winnipeggers should be desiring and taxpayers should be desiring."

In addition to neither increasing taxes nor introducing new taxes, the budget tabled this week lops $32 million from the $872-million summary deficit forecast for last year. Finance Minister Cameron Friesen also said Tuesday the government is confident it will continue to reduce the deficit by even greater margins in the next two years.

Bowman said that keeping the city's share of funding consistent despite that effort is a feat in itself.

"We had asked for a strong provincial partner, the province appears to have listened," he said.

However, Bowman is sure he'll be having words with provincial officials over the Building Manitoba Fund, which he noted as conspicuously absent from budget talks Tuesday.

"What I liked about the Building Manitoba Fund is that it was tied to economic growth.... As the economy grew, so too does financial support for Winnipeg's infrastructure," Bowman said. "The fact that wasn't mentioned is a concern that we'll seek to address with the province between our officials and theirs in the coming days."

Bowman wasn't able to speak to other program cuts or omissions that could affect the City of Winnipeg, including the Inuit Art Centre and Assiniboine Park Conservancy expansion.

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metro NEWS
Your essential daily news

Spicer under fire after saying even Hitler didn't use chemical weapons. **World**

MANITOBA BUDGET 2017

Tax credit for students cut

FINANCES

Tories take a stab at deficit but avoid any 'stark decisions'

Post-secondary graduates are taking a financial hit in a relatively stand-pat budget tabled by the Manitoba government Tuesday that holds the line on spending and makes a modest dent in the deficit.

The budget forecasts an overall deficit of $840 million this fiscal year — $32 million less than last year.

The biggest change is the phase-out by next year of an income tax rebate on tuition for post-secondary graduates who stay and work in the province. It's worth up to $2,500 a year per person and was introduced by the former NDP government as an incentive to keep grads from leaving.

"We can't continue to support programs that have no demonstrable positive effects and there was no data or support for that program's efficacy," Premier Brian Pallister said.

The Canadian Federation of Students said the rebate is badly needed by students who graduate with big loans.

"We've already gotten so many messages today from people who ... don't know what they're going to do to be able to pay off their student debt," said spokesman Michael Barkman.

There are no increases to personal or business taxes, but a number of tax credits are to be capped or cut.

The budget keeps a leash on spending in major departments at or near the rate of inflation. Health spending is to rise 1.8 per cent, while education will see an extra 1.1 per cent.

The Canadian Union of Public Employees said the small increases are likely to mean job cuts.

"I don't have faith in words like 'efficiencies' and 'innovation' being thrown around without translating that into privatization and job loss," said CUPE Manitoba president Kelly Moist.

The Tories have promised to balance the books by 2024 and cut the provincial sales tax to seven per cent from eight by 2020. Finance Minister Cameron Friesen said the budget is a measured step in that direction.

"Our provincial neighbours are pursuing different paths involving stark decisions," Friesen said in an apparent reference to the recent Saskatchewan budget that brought in deep spending cuts and a sales tax increase.

"With this budget, Manitoba charts its own balanced course — one that will confront the fiscal dangers we face with prudence, without higher taxes, deep cutbacks or unsustainable spending."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Manitoba Finance Minister Cameron Friesen speaks to media as David Angus, co-chair of the Advisory Panel on Fiscal Performance, listens before the provincial budget is read at the Manitoba Legislature on Tuesday. JOHN WOODS/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

WINNERS

Current taxpayers: The budget contains no new increases to personal or business taxes.

Future taxpayers: Overall deficit is $840 million, but that is $32 million less than last year.

Political parties: Maximum tax credit for political donations is being boosted to $1,000 from $650 next year.

Working parents: The province says it is creating more than 500 licensed child-care spaces in both daycares and homes.

GRAEME ROY/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

LOSERS

Students: A post-graduate tuition-fee tax rebate for students remaining in Manitoba to work is being cut, starting next year. It was worth up to $2,500 a year per person.

Caregivers: A tax credit for unpaid caregivers who help relatives stay in their own homes is being capped at $1,400 a year.

Researchers: The Research and Development Tax Credit for scientific development is being cut to 15 per cent from 20.

Low-wage earners: Budget makes no mention of an increase to the province's minimum wage.

BRAEDEN JONES/ FOR METRO

MANITOBA BUDGET 2017

Deficit-fighting budget divides

Metro asks local stakeholders to weigh in with their thoughts about the province's economic forecast.

BRAEDEN JONES METRO

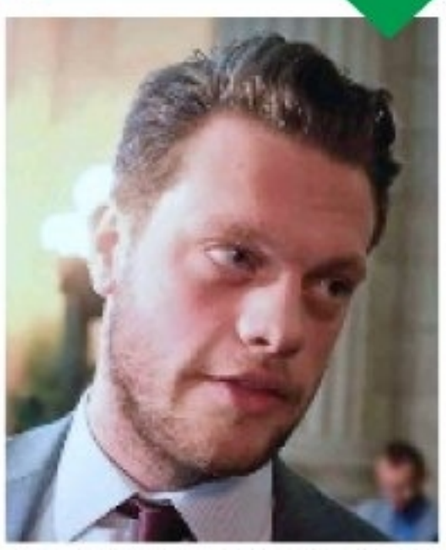
We're seeing some progress in the sense that the deficit is getting smaller but on the other hand, we're seeing a billion (dollars) fly out the door on interest cost, and the minister rightly notes that a one-point increase in interest rates ... would cost Manitobans $100 million. There's a lot of risk to going slow.

Todd MacKay, Prairie Director, Canadian Taxpayers Federation

I think there could have been more done to help wrestle the deficit. We're told those measures will come into place in the coming months and we'll see the effects of those in the coming years, but again, we're looking for an indication this is a serious matter and we're going to take the steps to really get the deficit under control. We would have looked for more today and we didn't get it, but we'll continue to work with the government.

Loren Remillard, President and CEO, Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce

On the rebate issue, I think this is a real regressive measure for students and recent graduates in this province. Already we've heard from so many graduates who are upset ... I think what we have been saying is that upfront support is what's needed most for students.



Michael Barkman, President, Canadian Federation of Students Manitoba

Infrastructure is important for municipalities. We've raised that time and time and time again, so we see there are significant dollars (set aside) for infrastructure. The details are important. We're going to be working with the government to see how those will be rolled out, but we're pleased to see infrastructure dollars being earmarked specifically.

Chris Goertzen, President, Association of Manitoba Municipalities

Leading up to the last election, Brian Pallister told Manitobans they had nothing to worry about but now we're starting to see their true colours. No one would have voted for three emergency rooms to be closed, no one would have voted to have addictions funding cut, no one would have voted to have taxes raised on recent graduates here. There's a bigger and bigger gap between what Pallister said he was going to do and what he's actually now doing.

Wab Kinew, NDP MLA and leadership candidate

ALL PHOTOS: BRAEDEN JONES/METRO

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Back on the streets, pushing for change

HOMELESSNESS

Advocate walks cart across the country to help raise awareness

Jessica Botelho-Urbanski
Metro | Winnipeg

Joe Roberts is pushing a custom-built grocery cart across Canada to raise money and awareness for youth homelessness. CONTRIBUTED

When he was 19 years old, Joe Roberts was homeless, addicted to heroin, pushing a shopping cart around Vancouver's East Side.

When he returns this fall at age 50, it'll be by choice with a custom-built shopping cart he pushed all the way across Canada.

Roberts co-created the Push for Change campaign to raise awareness and money to end youth homelessness. Backed by a support team in a van, he has been walking westbound from St. John's, N.L. since last May and hopes to reach Vancouver by September. On day 345 — after just as many bowls of oatmeal and at least 1,380 espresso shots — Roberts arrived across the Manitoba border. He expects to walk into Winnipeg by April 20.

Roberts spoke to Metro by phone about his journey so far.

The interview has been edited and condensed for clarity.

How are you feeling after 345 days?

"I think emotionally we're feeling great, we're feeling encouraged. The federal budget was probably the best budget that those advocating for all things homeless have seen in the last 30 years. It's a serious 11-year commitment to affordable housing…

(The Push for Change) is saying: 'Look, let's support young people before they become street-involved, before they become entrenched in addiction (or) sucked into the sex trade. Let's get at them before they become traumatized and heading towards long-term chronic homelessness.'

And if we do that effectively, we end up inadvertently helping the emergency services sector because we reduce the flow of non-emergency cases coming towards them. And it allows that system to readjust to what it was meant to be, which is short-term stays."

Do you feel like people don't understand the gravity of youth homelessness in Canada?

"Yeah, I do. The cool asset that I have is lived experience. And I get access to police commissioners, assistant commissioners, access to mayors, to provincial leaders and policy-makers (through the campaign). We had an opportunity to meet with our prime minister. And I can tell a story of lived experience, but then point to the directions in which we need to go."

How long were you homeless for?

"Off and on between the ages of 15 and 22. There were different stages of my homelessness. At 15, I was couch surfing, living in unsafe environments. You wouldn't have seen me on the street, but I didn't have safe and consistent housing. (I was) chronically homeless from about the age of 19 to 22."

How did you manage to pull out of it?

"For me, it's a story of good people and systems. So I had a mom who wouldn't give up on me and she brought me back to Ontario. There was a failed suicide attempt and an Ontario Provincial Police officer named Scott Macleod. He was called to my mom's residence and he diffused a very dangerous situation. That opened the door for me to go to detox, then full-time residential treatment. Then I went back to Loyalist College, graduated with honours, and went out into the business community.

I don't know where I'd be without mom and Scott. So I had the right people and champions in my place, but I also had access to detox, access to treatment, access to education. So the systems piece became very, very important for me."

Do you think you would have had the same success if you were homeless now, trying to get access to those same services?

"(That) depends on (location). In Vancouver, no. I got clean in 1991. So that was a long time ago — 26 years. This country's slowly retracted its investment in all things to deal with social supports and programs. We're now seeing the government come back to it, but that erosion, combined with a whole bunch of other things… the trajectory of where some of these social problems have gone and what we've seen compounded. I think it's harder for a story like mine to happen today."

Follow The Push for Change's progress on social media and their website: thepushforchange.com.

LANDRY LAKE

Rescuers save man, dog from unstable ice

Mounties are warning about unsafe ice conditions after a man and his dog had to be rescued in northern Manitoba.

RCMP in The Pas say the pair had been travelling on a snowmobile on a tributary near Landry Lake when the machine broke the ice at the weekend.

Police say the 40-year-old man from Opaskwayak Cree Nation and his dog couldn't walk to shore because the ice was severely unstable.

Mounties from The Pas and Moose Lake, along with conservation officers, Opaskwayak Cree Nation Fire Department and First Nation council members pooled resources to head out on the lake and rescue the pair.

The team followed the snowmobile tracks to where it went through the ice and was able to get the man and his dog off the ice using amphibious vehicles.

Once the team returned to stable ice, the man and his dog were transferred to a RCMP off-road vehicle transport pod attached to a snowmobile and taken back to shore.

"We felt a surge of relief when we were able to put eyes on the two of them and saw that they were OK," said The Pas RCMP Cpl. Colin Stark, who led the rescue team.

"Thankfully, we were able to co-ordinate a complex rescue in a short time because everyone pitched in. Working together equipped with the proper resources, we were able to have a successful outcome, and everyone made it home safely."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Group trying to fly in family for vigil

FUNDRAISING

Christine Wood missing since last August

Jessica Botelho-Urbanski
Metro | Winnipeg

A non-profit representing northern Manitoba First Nations is fundraising to bring Christine Wood's family to Winnipeg for a vigil in her memory.

Wood, 21, was originally from Bunibonibee Cree Nation, about an hour-and-a-half north of Winnipeg by plane.

She went missing during a trip to Winnipeg last August for a medical appointment. Her family members were searching for her ever since.

Over the weekend, city police announced they made an arrest in connection to Wood's case. Brett Ronald Overby, 30, is facing a charge of second-degree murder. Wood's body has not yet been found.

Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak started a GoFundMe page Monday to crowdsource money for a vigil Wednesday.

The memorial will include an afternoon walk from Burrows Avenue, where it's believed Wood was last seen alive, to Thunderbird House on Main Street.

"We are hoping to get support to fly fourteen people from BCN, help with their meals while here and one night's stay at a hotel," MKO posted on the GoFundMe website.

Cash and food donations are also being accepted for the vigil at Thunderbird House.

More details about the vigil will be provided by MKO, Bear Clan Patrol and the Canadian Centre for Child Protection Tuesday.

Christine Wood went missing during a trip to Winnipeg last August. THE CANADIAN PRESS

CONCORDIA HOSPITAL

Emergency room closure sparks rally

Staff, neighbours and political opponents rallied outside the Concordia Hospital Tuesday to protest the provincial government's proposed emergency room shutdown.

On Friday, Health Min. Kelvin Goertzen announced sweeping changes to Winnipeg's health-care system, including plans to close three of six hospitals' emergency departments and convert two — Victoria Hospital and Seven Oaks Hospital — to urgent care centres. The emergency room at Concordia Hospital will be closed and the hospital will focus more on transitional care for the elderly and physical rehabilitation.

Ric McAlpine, president for CUPE 1973 and a porter at Concordia, said staff members don't yet know when, where or if their jobs will be reassigned to other hospitals.

Their demonstration Tuesday morning was meant to encourage the community to speak out against the proposed health-care changes, he said.

An online petition entitled Save the Concordia ER has amassed more than 1,500 signatures in two days. McAlpine said union members will also be distributing flyers and door-knocking in the area.

Community and CUPE 1973 members rally outside Concordia Hospital Tuesday. CONTRIBUTED

If the Concordia emergency room were to close, patients would likely go to the nearest hospitals at Seven Oaks or St. Boniface, McAlpine said.

The distance between Concordia and St. Boniface is about a 15-minute drive, while Concordia to Seven Oaks is about 20 minutes.

JESSICA BOTELHO-URBANSKI/METRO, WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

Winnipeg DIGEST

Golf course arson
Winnipeg police are investigating a fire at the Harbour View Golf Course Monday at around 11 p.m. that they believe was deliberately set.

Firefighters and police found a play structure up in flames. Damage is estimated at $200,000.

LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

Woman held in homicide
A 54-year-old woman has been found dead in her Wolseley home in the 400 block of Camden Place and her 44-year-old neighbour is now facing a charge of second-degree murder. Family have identified the victim as Judy Kenny, a former receptionist for CTV Winnipeg.

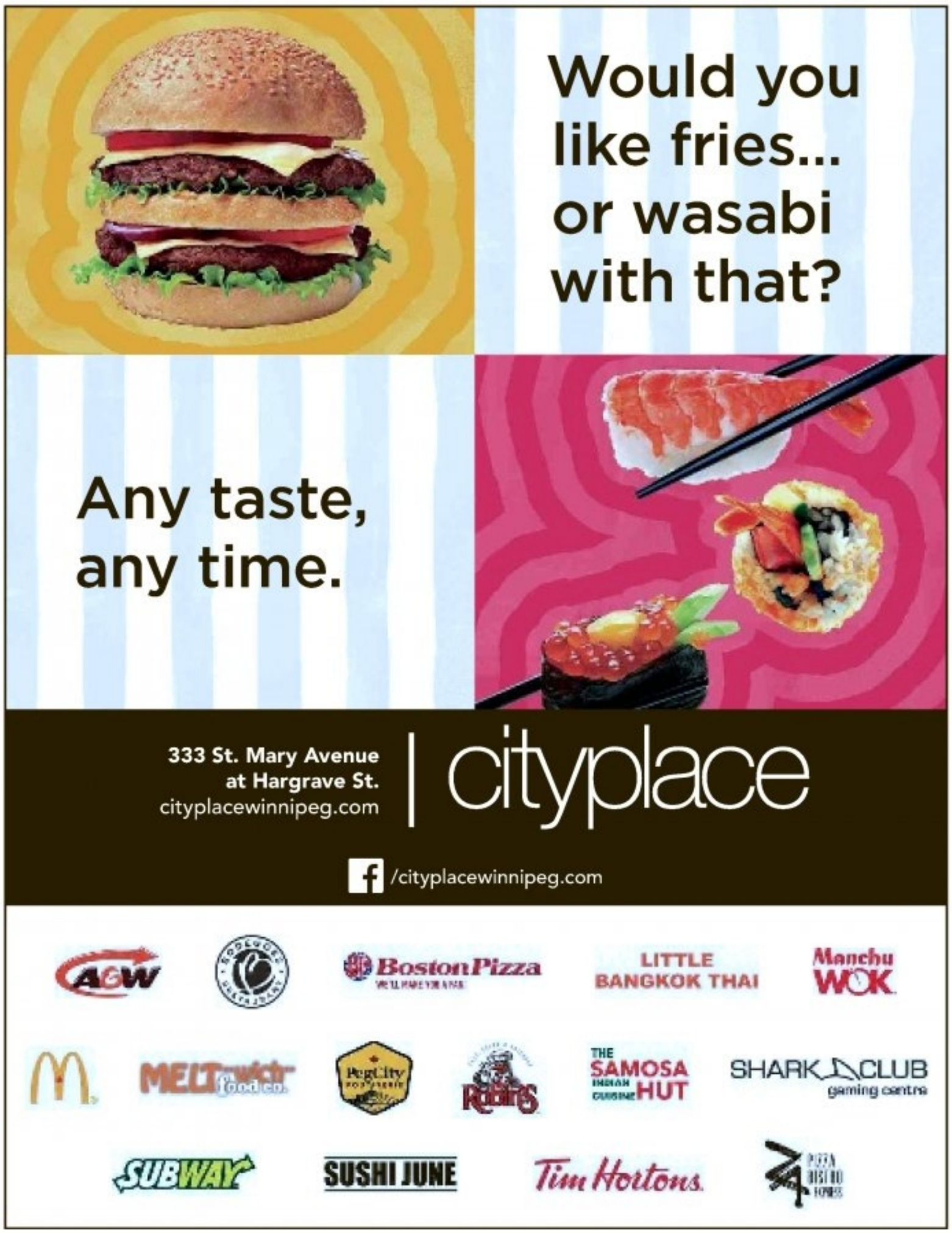
Brenda Lee Schuff, a resident on Camden Place, is facing a second-degree murder charge.

LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO; THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lawn tractor driver faces impaired charges
A man is facing impaired driving charges after police in Winkler, Man., found him riding a lawn tractor on and off the road with his son in his lap on Saturday around 9 p.m.

The driver, who had difficulty standing and speaking, told police he was coming from a bar.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Limits to budget officer role would come at a price

ACCOUNTABILITY

Office checking fed finances to get new powers, new strings

The Trudeau government tabled legislation Tuesday which, once passed, will give the parliamentary budget officer expanded powers but also impose new restrictions.

The so-called budget implementation act would make the federal watchdog an independent Officer of Parliament, set the officer's term at seven years, ensure the office has expanded access to data and enable it to estimate the costs of any election platform proposal at the request of political parties.

The legislation, however, also proposes to mandate the PBO to submit its annual work plans to the Speakers of the Senate and the House of Commons for approval.

If passed into law, the moves would alter the rules surrounding the budget office, which is designed to serve parliamentarians as a non-partisan check on the management of government finances.

The Trudeau government aims to give the parliamentary budget officer expanded powers, with restrictions. THE CANADIAN PRESS

The proposed changes would also prevent the PBO from making a report public until a day after it provides it to the parliamentary committee that requested the research or to the Speakers.

Assistant parliamentary budget officer Mostafa Askari said Tuesday, shortly after receiving the bill, that he would study it carefully to determine its implications.

"There are new restrictions on the operation of the new PBO and we have to figure out what those restrictions imply in terms of the effectiveness and the credibility of the PBO," Askari said.

Former PBO Kevin Page said the Liberals fulfilled a 2015 election pledge by making the PBO an Officer of Parliament. He said he was also encouraged by the proposal to allow the office to cost election promises.

But Page has concerns about the potential limits on the types of work the office will be permitted to do going forward and how the results are released.

"That could be a really big price," Page, who now heads the University of Ottawa's Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy, said in an interview. "I worry that these kinds of constraints could actually really limit the, quote unquote, independence of the office in practice."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

150 WAYS of looking at Canada

POSTCARD NO. 70

ASSINIBOINE PARK, WINNIPEG

THIS PHOTO WAS TAKEN AT THE ASSINIBOINE PARK, WINNIPEG. I LOVE THIS PHOTO BECAUSE IT REMINDS ME OF ALEXANDRIA, MY HOME CITY BACK IN EGYPT. WE HAVE A SIMILAR PARK CALLED MONTAZAH GARDENS. THIS WAS ALSO TAKEN ON MY FAMILY'S FIRST DAY OUT AFTER WE IMMIGRATED TO CANADA. WE ENJOYED IT.
NAAOOM IBRAHIM

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Each day until July 1, Metro will feature one reader's postcard in our editions across the country, on Metronews.ca and our 150postcards Instagram page. Get involved by sending us a photo of your favourite place in Canada along with 25 to 50 words about why that place is special to you. Email us at **scene@metronews.ca** or post to Instagram or Twitter with the hashtag **#150postcards**.

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Ebrahim Toure has never been charged with a crime but has been at the Central East Correctional Centre in Lindsay, Ont. for four years on immigration detention. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A 'deficient process'

DETENTION

Immigrants locked up based on dodgy risk assessments

Canada's border police have left vital records blank and said they lack the expertise to assess the risks posed by immigration detainees, documents filed in federal court reveal.

"I am not a medical or mental health professional," one Canada Border Services Agency officer wrote on a risk assessment form in 2015. "I have not received any training on the completion of the form. This assessment is cursory in nature and should not be construed as an accurate representation of the subject's risk or mental health status."

The form which the officer admitted he or she was untrained and ill-equipped to complete had real consequences for Kyon Ferril, the immigration detainee in question, as it meant he would continue to serve his detention in a maximum-security jail rather than a less-restrictive facility.

Torstar's review of documents found erratic use of the form known as a National Risk Assessment for Detention, or NRAD. It is to be filled out when an immigration detainee is first incarcerated and, according to policy, should be reassessed every 60 days. The form determines in what kind of facility a detainee will be placed by classifying them as high-, medium- or low-risk.

The federal government runs three medium-security facilities dedicated to immigration detention, which are not full. But "high-risk" detainees are sent to maximum-security provincial jails, where, by the government's own calculation, two-thirds of the total number of immigration detention days are spent.

Lawyer Jared Will has taken the cases of two men to federal court to challenge the immigration detention system and is shocked by the "lack of competence" of the officers filling out the forms.

"Very important decisions on people's basic liberty and security interests are being made in one of the most deficient administrative processes I've ever seen," he said.

Ebrahim Toure, a 45-year-old failed refugee claimant has spent more than four years awaiting deportation at Central East Correctional Centre, a maximum-security jail in Lindsay, Ont.

Toure has often wondered why he is not at the Immigration Holding Centre. He is not considered a danger to the public and had never spent a night in jail. Border services has said he was designated "high-risk" due to "criminality" in the U.S., which Torstar found consists of a conviction for selling pirated CDs and DVDs in Atlanta and a $1,000 fine for "reckless conduct." Neither offence led to jail time. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

Training on sexual assault trauma wanted

A group that represents Crown prosecutors told MPs on Tuesday that they could use the training as well.

"We do not get adequate training and we particularly do not get training on the trauma of sexual assault," said Ursula Hendel, president of the Association of Justice Counsel.

The committee is studying a bill that would require lawyers receive training on sexual assault before being eligible for federal judicial appointments. RYAN TUMILTY/METRO OTTAWA

MILITARY

Israeli transgender officer stresses tolerance

Shachar Erez is the first transgender officer in the IDF. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Shachar Erez recalls the day five years ago when, as an 18-year-old female Israeli soldier, the time had come to tell his commanding officer something profound about himself — that he believed he was a man.

He had already broken the news to his family, including his two younger brothers, and it had come as no surprise. When he was two, he asked his parents to cut his hair; at five, his dresses and skirts were tossed out.

But what would his army commander think? She was only 19, herself. "She only asked me one thing: 'How can I help?' It was amazing."

The answer changed Erez's life, and set him on a course to become an international ambassador of sorts for the Israel Defence Forces on LGBT rights after becoming its first and highest-ranking openly transgender officer.

It was in that role that he was in Ottawa recently to meet senior officials in the Canadian Forces, who are still in the throes of wrestling with their own policy on transgender issues in the military.

The Forces' long-awaited policy on transgender personnel was expected at the end of last year, but it now appears tied up in the broader policy review of the military.

How to better educate personnel to lessen the likelihood of discrimination and abuse is expected to be a feature of the new policy. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hitler comment 'insensitive'

White House press secretary Sean Spicer talks to reporters during the daily press briefing at the White House on Tuesday. ANDREW HARNIK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

POLITICS

Donald Trump's press secretary under fire from Jewish groups

White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer apologized Tuesday for making an "inappropriate and insensitive" comparison to the Holocaust in earlier comments about Syrian President Bashar Assad's use of chemical weapons — remarks that drew instant rebuke from Jewish groups and critics.

Spicer said in an interview with CNN that he was trying to make a point about Assad's use of chemical weapons and gas against his people but "mistakenly made an inappropriate and insensitive reference to the Holocaust, for which there is no comparison. And for that I apologize. It was a mistake to do that."

During the daily White House briefing, Spicer told reporters that Adolf Hitler "didn't even sink to using chemical weapons." Critics noted the remark ignored Hitler's use of gas chambers to exterminate Jews during the Holocaust.

It was the second day in a row in which Spicer, President Donald Trump's main spokesman, appeared to struggle to articulate the president's foreign policy at a critical time. The White House generated criticism at the start of the year when a statement on international Holocaust Remembrance Day did not make any reference to Jews.

In the CNN interview, Spicer said his comments did not reflect Trump's views. "My comments today did not reflect the president's, were a distraction from him and frankly were misstated, insensitive and wrong." He added, "Obviously it was my blunder."

During the briefing, Spicer was asked about his initial statement but delivered a garbled defence of his remarks in which he tried to differentiate between Hitler's actions and the gas attack on Syrian civilians last week.

The attack in northern Syria left nearly 90 people dead, and Turkey's health minister said tests show sarin gas was used. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Global digest

Draft resolution circulated
Britain, France and the U.S. have circulated a revised UN draft resolution that would condemn the reported use of chemical weapons in Syria and demand that all parties provide speedy access to investigators to the sites, and calls for those responsible to be brought to justice. AP

School shooter threatened his wife
The man who opened fire in a San Bernardino school was a pastor and Navy veteran who accused his newlywed wife of infidelity. When he failed in his efforts to win her back, he fatally shot her and one of the special needs children she taught, police said Tuesday. AP

Hundreds missing
Authorities and aid workers are searching for several hundred migrants who disappeared after a fire ravaged their camp in Grande-Synthe, France, a shocking blaze that exposed anew the challenges around Europe's migrants just 12 days before France's presidential election. AP

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SAGE CREEK

'The craziest act I've ever seen': a PR crisis for United

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Experts say airline totally fumbled on bumping fiasco

United Airlines is getting pummeled on late-night TV. Online, jokers are proposing new corporate slogans such as "We'll drag you all over the world" and "We have red eye and black eye flights available."

The cellphone video of airport police dragging a 69-year-old passenger off an overbooked flight has become a public-relations fiasco for United, with travel and experts saying the airline fumbled from the start and made matters worse with a tone-deaf apology from the CEO.

It's too soon to know whether Sunday night's incident at Chicago's O'Hare Airport will cause lasting harm. Many travellers go for the cheapest fare, no matter what the name on the plane. And United frequent flyers won't easily give up their miles.

Dr. David Dao of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, with his granddaughter and his wife Teresa. INSTAGRAM

Then again, there are those videos of the man being yanked out of his seat and pulled down the aisle on his back as other passengers gasped.

"That is the craziest act I've ever seen. Who drags a ticketed passenger off an airplane?" said Bruce Rubin, a longtime practitioner of crisis public relations in Miami. "Because it's so visual and it's so unnecessary, it's the kind of thing that can hurt United long-term."

Just two weeks ago, United was at the centre of another PR furor after a gate agent in Denver barred two girls from boarding a flight because they were wearing leggings.

The man hauled off the plane, David Dao, a doctor from Elizabethtown, Kentucky, had been told along with three other passengers to give up their seats so that four employees of the company operating the flight for United could board. Dao was the only one to refuse.

To make room on the plane, United had tried to entice volunteers with travel vouchers worth $800 and a hotel room. When there were no takers, a United manager went on board and announced that four people would be removed.

Big mistake, say the crisis-management experts. Everyone wondered why United didn't simply sweeten the offer until four passengers agreed to get off.

"A few dollars could have solved this problem," said Allen Adamson, founder of Brand Simple Consulting in New York. "Instead, the damage of the brand will be millions of dollars."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

STOCK MARKET

One passenger equals a billion dollar mistake

The stock of parent United Continental Holdings Inc. plunged 4.4 per cent Tuesday morning but recovered and was off 1.4 per cent shortly before the closing bell.

Earlier in the day Tuesday the massive plunge in stock value knocking off close to $1 billion off the company's value before the stock bounced back a bit.

The recovery was attributed to a third and stronger mea culpa released by United CEO Oscar Munoz, in which he apologized for the "truly horrific event," saying, "No one should ever be mistreated this way." He promised a review of airline policies by April 30 and vowed to "fix what's broken so this never happens again."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4.4%

United Continental Holdings Inc stock. plunged 4.4 per cent early Tuesday, but had recovered somewhat before the closing bell.

Who is Dr. David Dao?

The man dragged from a full United Express flight has been identified as physician Dr. David Dao of Elizabethtown, Kentucky.

Dao is a 69-year-old Vietnamese-American, a father of five, and grandfather specializing in internal medicine.

Media reports claim that Dao's wife Teresa, 69, is a pediatrican who trained at Ho Chi Minh University in Saigon and she also practices in Elizabethtown.

The violent incident aboard the United flight has reached the news in China, with many users accusing United of racism and calling for a boycott.

An 18-year-old Chinese student in the U.K. has even created an online petition calling on the U.S. government to investigate the violent incident.

"We are calling the federal government to launch an investigation into this incident. #ChineseLivesMatters," the petition says.

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Wednesday

EMMA TEITEL ON SUPPORTING THE WOMEN'S GAME

Until sports fans give women's teams the daily attention they give men's teams, nothing major will change for professional female athletes or their salaries

WINNING STRATEGY Angela James, one of the first women inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame, says the game should go barnstorming to build a fan base. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

When I was a kid in the late 1990s, I attended a hockey camp at Seneca College in Toronto where the lead instructor was Angela James, a Canadian hockey legend dubbed the Wayne Gretzky of women's hockey by just about everyone who followed the sport at the time. A five-time world championship winner, James, in 2010, was one of the first women inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto. She was also only the second black athlete, and the first openly gay athlete, to make the Hall.

My own interaction with James was less momentous, but maybe more profound. The second day at camp, I peed in my hockey pants. It didn't matter that none of the other campers noticed; I was mortified. But James was wise enough to see that something was amiss, and kind enough to escort me to the bathroom right away. "It happens to the best of us," she said, handing me a fresh towel. I returned to the ice dry and happy, and saved.

It was a high point in my hockey career (getting a pep talk from a star athlete, not peeing in my pants) but I've always wondered if it was a low point in the career of Angela James. When Wayne Gretzky retired he was left with wealth and fame and the option to live the rest of his life in a golden state of leisure and golf. Angela James, a woman hockey genius, was left with the need to continue working a full-time job to survive (just as she had to work while she was playing hockey), including the opportunity to chaperone incontinent kids to the bathroom. Very few female hockey players in the '90s and early 2000s could support themselves — let alone live the high life — on their earnings as professionals.

Part of the solution may lie in playing up the skills women have that men lack.

Nearly 20 years later, not much has changed. Consider, as a recent example, the women of USA Hockey. Winners of the last three world championships, (and some of the best players that ever lived), last month they threatened to boycott this year's IIHF Ice Hockey World Championships, if their parent organization didn't meet the team's demands for fair pay and increased publicity. USA Hockey stonewalled the team almost until the eve of the tournament, then finally agreed to a new deal. Henceforth the American women will each receive a $2,000 training stipend every month, every year, and larger bonuses when they win medals at major tournaments.

As victories go, it's a precarious one, it seems to me. The source of the previous injustice still remains: general fan indifference to female team sports, except for a two-week period every four years when the Olympics are held. Until sports fans — men and, yes, women too — give women's teams the daily attention they give men's teams, nothing major will change for professional female team athletes or their salaries.

Angela James agrees. I know because I called her up recently. James, who still works at Seneca College today as the school's sports co-ordinator, wonders if what's holding women's hockey back is, in part, a desire to emulate the NHL.

"I'm not the smartest business person, but I know that any business needs to go smaller before they go bigger." A good way to do this? Barnstorm, argues James. Women's teams, even at a junior hockey level, might have more success shoring up a sizable fan base if they start grassroots, touring small venues, in small towns and cities. "Go to a smaller rink where you can fill a smaller rink," she says. Of course, Hockey Canada has no trouble filling the ACC when the national women's team is in town, but they play large-scale venues only a few times a year. This gives hockey fans a token look at the women's game, says James, and not a whole lot more.

Part of the solution may lie in playing up the skills women have that men lack. Men's hockey is speedier and more violent, no doubt, but the female game is arguably smarter. It rewards strategy over size and strength. Women's hockey is plenty tough, but knowledge of the game is paramount.

This is something Draymond Green, a power forward with the NBA's Golden State Warriors, sees when it comes to basketball. Green is a big fan of the WNBA. "In the NBA there's always a guy who is only around because he can jump," Green told Sports Illustrated last year. "He doesn't have a clue about the fundamentals. I learn more from the WNBA. They know how to dribble, how to pivot, how to use the shot fake."

They also know, presumably, how to work a second job, and possibly help out young players with bladder malfunctions. They may forget specific names and faces, but they don't forget the experience. Angela James, for instance, has no memory of helping me personally out on the ice, because, she says, I was one of several campers over the years who wet themselves mid-drill. Either way, she assures me the incident would "absolutely not" constitute a low point in her career. "Unless it was puke," she said. "I can't do puke."

The thing is, men rarely have to.

Emma Teitel is a Toronto Star national affairs columnist.

VICKY MOCHAMA

Forget what the boss says or the computer allows; just be good to each other

A company pays you for your labour — not so you can abdicate all moral responsibility.

By now, you've seen the video of a doctor being dragged off a United Airlines flight. For obvious reasons, it is upsetting.

But the more insidiously upsetting thing is that we have become inured to one another: Human beings enforced the company's rules.

News reports say United requested four people give up their seats in order to give those seats to ground crew. When no one on the flight volunteered, people were selected at random and told to get off the plane in exchange for vouchers.

The passenger pled his case: he had to get back to Louisville to see patients. But the airline's agents and security had already bought into the company's logic.

And because the man had not, he had to be forcibly removed, or in the parlance of United, "re-accommodated."

Defending their actions, the police say the passenger "fell." The video clearly shows that the police, shall we say, re-accommodated him into a non-standing position.

We have become used to a system that isolates us from each other and a logic in which the state protects companies from us. How often has a reasonable request been denied because "the computer can't do it?"

Corporations (and the state) have an interest in reinforcing our helplessness. And it's taught early.

The New York Times reports that New Mexico has outlawed "lunch shaming," when cafeteria workers shame kids whose parents haven't paid their school lunch bills. Children can be made to do chores in exchange for their lunch or branded with stamps and wristbands.

Let us set aside for the moment that one of the richest nations in the world can't feed the children it is educating. Let's focus on the smaller acts of intervention.

Lunch shaming is a sickening practice, but there are cafeteria staff who resist it. The Times reports that one worker had taken to paying some students' debt. Another had quit rather than deny food to children.

Most of us work for corporations with similar logic to United Airlines and school lunch providers.

Their goal is to maximize efficiency. But it doesn't have to be ours.

Because I lose my debit card as often as I possibly can, I have been grateful for the baristas who waved off my pitiful change, the bus drivers who waved me on when my pass didn't work, and the taxi drivers who got me home safe for free.

The gap between human empathy and corporate logic is not always as dangerous as being bloodied during a flight, but it can be, which is why we have a responsibility to resist it.

The world will not fall into anarchy if we exercise more compassion.

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Michel Bublé's son Noah doing well after cancer treatment

METROTALKS BARB STEGEMANN

'You're not going to fix the world in one night'

Subject of new documentary Perfume War on how to run an ethical business

Melita Kuburas
Metro | Canada

She's a half-Jewish, half-Catholic woman from Nova Scotia doing business with Muslim men in Afghanistan. At least, these are the facts people often bring up to Barb Stegemann, asking: How do they treat you?

"The men in these countries treat me better than the white men in my own community," Stegemann says, always quick to point out that in Canada, we too live in a patriarchy.

"What's beautiful about ethical business is that they don't care what your gender is, or your faith. If you pay on time, you're good," says Stegemann in an interview with Metro's editorial team.

The founder and CEO of The 7 Virtues is the subject of a new documentary opening across Canada Friday called Perfume War, which profiles how she launched her fragrance business as a single mom, putting $20,000 of debt on her credit card.

Her motivation was an extraordinary event that changed many lives: In 2006 her best friend, Capt. Trevor Greene, took an axe to the head wielded by a member of the Taliban during what was supposed to be a protected meeting (*shura*) between Canadian Forces and tribal elders in Afghanistan. His attacker was an illiterate 16-year-old who was shot before he could strike again, but the first blow caused serious brain injury and left Greene unable to walk.

At his bedside in a Vancouver hospital, Stegemann vowed to continue Greene's peace-oriented mission. She found a supplier in Afghanistan named Abdullah Arsala who was selling essential oils to make perfume in an effort to derail the country's dependence on the dangerous and illegally grown poppy crops, used to make opium.

She launched her company in 2010 and now, 7 Virtues' line is expanded to five fragrances with oils also sourced from distilleries in Rwanda, Haiti, Israel, and Iran, with national distribution in Hudson's Bay and Lord & Taylor in the U.S.

"You're not going to fix the world in one night, but if you start you'll look back in six years and say we've made a difference," says Stegemann, who is now ready to take her company to the next level. She has her eye on the Holy Grail of the beauty industry: Sephora.

Next week, Stegemann is travelling to San Francisco to take part in Sephora's accelerator program, which aims to support women in the industry. Only four per cent of CEOs in the beauty business are female, she says. The 48-year-old will be mentored on how to revamp her perfumes so that she can pitch to the company and get them on the retailer's shelves.

In startup years, The 7 Virtues is an old company. One of her challenges is to show she's willing to do anything to become a global brand.

"You have to show that you're not attached to your ideas and you're malleable," she says, of the program. "If you said to me two months ago 'Why don't you redesign your fragrances?' I would have been like, don't you dare!"

But now, she has hired a new perfumer with the ultimate goal to increase sales and buy more oils from her distillery suppliers. This brings direct benefits to those communities.

In Rwanda, for instance, a woman working for patchouli supplier Nicholas of Ikirezi earns three times the income a coffee crop worker makes; in Afghanistan, the rose farmers make twice that of illegal-crop growers.

So while Stegemann's mission has only just started — she still wants to make a perfume using oils from Palestine — her best friend, who has made remarkable progress on his recovery, is happy with all that she has been able to accomplish.

"Barb completed my mission," says Greene in the documentary. "Who would have thought..perfume?"

Barb Stegemann launched her perfume company, The 7 Virtues, after her best friend was seriously injured in Afghanistan. Capt. Trevor Greene (pictured with Stegemann when they were both younger) was attacked with an axe by a member of the Taliban, which caused brain damage. Stegemann then decided to partner with a rose and orange blossom distiller in that country. LIZ BEDDALL/FOR METRO

TIPS FOR A SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

• Partner with government agencies and NGOs
"Anyone who wants to be a social entrepreneur should have their supplier prequalified so you can feel safe knowing you're working with someone who's good to their farmers, not using pesticides, all the things you care about in your product sourcing," says Stegemann. She worked with CIDA, Building Markets, The Clinton Foundation and USAID.

• Ask a lot of questions of people you work with
"A social entrepreneur needs to be curious and and be OK with 'no' and ask again. I didn't always get direct answers."

• Spend time to build trust with your partners
Stegemann says she is transparent with her suppliers, and is happy to bring them new business even if it means her company won't be so "special." "Over the years they see that you're not just in it for your oils," she says.
MELITA KUBURAS/METRO

JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Girls still hitting new heights

THE SHOW: Girls, Season 6, Episode 8 (HBO)
THE MOMENT: The diner

Girls is one of the best as it approaches its finale. CONTRIBUTED

Hannah (Lena Dunham), pregnant, and Adam (Adam Driver) sit in a diner booth. It's been a remarkable day: Out of the blue, he told her he wants them to reunite. He'll raise her baby with her. She admits how frightened she's been of doing it alone.

They discuss moving in together. "I'm on the list for artist housing," he says. "They tend to favour married couples, though, so it might help if we did that."

Almost imperceptibly, Hannah blanches. But she natters on about joining a food co-op, "though I find the whole shift thing demeaning."

"I can do the shifts, if you handle the bills," Adam says.

She nods. But somehow she's crying. His smile fades.

Hannah doesn't speak. But the pain on her face says everything: As scary as it is to be alone, she can't be with him. She can't go backward. In the silence of her falling tears, we can hear their hearts crack.

Some series rise to magnificence in their final season – The Sopranos, Six Feet Under, Breaking Bad. They somehow both steam forward and reach the apotheosis of all their themes. Add Girls to that list.

This diner scene is everything. It encompasses an entire relationship, past, present and future, wordlessly. Did the script once have more dialogue? Did they pare it away as they realized Dunham's eyes could convey all they needed? Or was it always this shimmeringly silent?

That "voice of a generation" crack Dunham made in the pilot episode? Damn if it hasn't come true.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

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MUSIC

Sheryl Crow returns to reflect on Trump

Sheryl Crow's new album, Be Myself, out April 21, has political and social themes. AP

Last year, Sheryl Crow started a petition on Change.org to shorten the U.S. presidential election cycle. The Grammy-winning singer-songwriter said she was exhausted by the constant mudslinging and divisive language.

"I felt like it was becoming so hateful that I had to watch to make sure my kids didn't pick up the remote and turn the TV on," she said, adding that it upsets her that technology and social media change conversation.

"Now we have this forum for haters to come out and say the worst thing you could possibly say to someone without having the experience of reaction. We've learned to be a society without empathy and without compassion."

The ways people interact became a central theme on her upcoming album, Be Myself.

Crow said the album helped her after Donald Trump's victory.

"I started losing faith and not only for our country, but for the people that voted for him," Crow said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Speak of the devilled (eggs)

Borscht Eggs

These eggs have a deep purple-pink tinge after marinating in pickled beet juice overnight. Mixing the yolks with horseradish and topping it off with herring, capers and dill completes this Russian-inspired appetizer.

2 1/2 cups (625 mL) water
1 cup (250 mL) apple cider vinegar
2 tbsp (30 mL) granulated sugar
1/2 tsp (2 mL) Kosher salt
1 small beet, peeled and sliced thinly
6 hard-boiled eggs, peeled
2 tbsp (30 mL) mayonnaise
2 tbsp (30 mL) prepared horseradish
1/2 tsp (2 mL) fresh dill, plus more for garnish, chopped
Freshly ground black pepper, to taste
Jarred pickled herring, for garnish
Capers, for garnish

In a saucepan, combine water, vinegar, sugar salt and beets. Bring to boil over medium-high heat. Turn heat down to medium and simmer for 5 minutes.

Place boiled eggs in a bowl and add beet mixture. Make sure eggs are submerged. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate overnight. Stir occasionally for even colour distribution.

Drain eggs and chop beets into small matchsticks for garnish. Using a very sharp non-serrated knife, slice eggs in half lengthwise.

Gently squeeze yolks into a bowl with fingers (they should pop right out, if not, use a spoon to help). Place cooked whites on serving platter.

Mash yolks with a fork and stir in mayonnaise, salt and pepper until creamy and combined.

Dispense yolk mixture back into egg whites using a spoon or a piping bag fitted with a large star tip.

Garnish with herring, dill, capers and chopped bees.

Serve immediately. Makes 12.

Soy Sauce and Miso-Ginger Eggs

2 1/2 cups (625 mL) water
3 tbsp (45 mL) dark Chinese soy sauce
1 tsp granulated sugar
2 slices fresh ginger
3 star anise pods
1/2 tsp black peppercorns
6 hard-boiled eggs, peeled
2 tbsp (30 mL) mayonnaise
1 tsp (5 mL) white miso paste
1/4 tsp freshly grated ginger
1 stalk green onion, finely chopped

In saucepan, combine water, soy sauce, sugar, ginger, star anise and peppercorns. Bring to boil over medium heat. Turn down to low and let simmer for 5 minutes.

Pour soy sauce mixture over eggs, ensuring eggs are submerged in liquid. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate overnight. Stir every so often for even colour distribution.

Drain liquid and discard spices. Slice eggs in half lengthwise. Gently squeeze out yolks into a bowl. Place cooked whites on serving platter. Mash yolks with a fork and stir in mayonnaise, miso paste and ginger. Dispense yolk mixture back into egg whites. Garnish with green onion and furikake. Serve immediately, makes 12.

Curried Eggs

2 1/2 cups (625 mL) water
1 cup (250 mL) apple cider vinegar
1 tbsp (15 mL) ground turmeric
1/2 tsp (2 mL) Kosher salt
6 hard-boiled eggs, peeled
2 tbsp (30 mL) mayonnaise
1/2 tsp (2 mL) curry powder
Pinch of ground cumin
Pinch of cayenne
1 tbsp (15 mL) canola or vegetable oil
1/4 cup (60 mL) canned chickpeas, drained, rinsed and dried
Kosher salt, to taste

Combine water, vinegar, turmeric and salt. Boil and simmer for 5 minutes.

Place eggs in a bowl and pour turmeric mixture over eggs to completely submerge. Refrigerate overnight. Stir every so often for even colour distribution.

Drain liquid and rinse off any excess turmeric. Slice eggs in half lengthwise.

Gently squeeze yolks into a bowl. Mash yolks and stir in mayonnaise, curry powder, cumin and cayenne. Dispense yolk mixture back into egg whites. In a small skillet, heat oil. Add chickpeas and sauté till browned and crispy, about 6 to 8 minutes. Remove excess oil. Garnish eggs with fried chickpeas and additional pinch of cayenne.

Serve immediately. Makes 12.

SPONSORED CONTENT — SIOUX LOOKOUT

New health plan trying to fill gaps for First Nation communities

Providing medical services to an area as large as France is no easy task. Sioux Lookout and the surrounding region has 33 communities, and the majority of the 32,000 people living there are only accessible by air transportation. Covering the health needs of these communities is accordingly a formidable challenge.

Yet a new initiative from the Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority hopes to unite existing services to meet that challenge.

"Our communities are remote and poverty-stricken. Their health has become a state of emergency," says Dr. Terri Farrell, Sioux Lookout's medical director. "There's extremely poor physical and mental health in the region, with high instances of mental health issues."

So in February 2016, after a Health and Public Health emergency was declared for the region, an initiative was offered via the Ontario Indigenous Health Action Plan. "We could apply for an interdisciplinary and primary health care team at $3 million a year," says Farrell. "It isn't a lot for what we need. But it was the first step."

The plan would supplement the current setup of physicians and Health Canada nurses working in the region. "This would fill the gap

CONTRIBUTED

of services," says Farrell. This comes in the form of 20 health care providers such as family physicians, nurse practitioners, dieticians, mental health workers, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and more. While the group would focus on children and youth health, it wouldn't exclusively serve that population.

Importantly these services are based on an outreach model. "While the head office is in Sioux Lookout, the focus is providing these services in the communities as much as possible," says Farrell. "It's a big initiative. That is why we need smart and dedicated people to deliver these vital services. We are looking for people that want to make a difference."

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Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority

HELP MAKE ALS TREATABLE, NOT TERMINAL

Imagine slowly losing the ability to hold a drink in your hand, struggling to do up the buttons on your shirt.

Imagine not being able to swallow or catch your breath. Imagine being trapped in your body, your mind is alert, you still know what you want to do — but can't.

"Quality of Life is important for everyone. Living with a life limiting disease such as ALS means every minute counts," says Diana Rasmussen, executive director ALS Society of Manitoba. "We need your help to make moments matter and provide hope."

The ALS Society of Manitoba is committed to provide the best possible care and support for Manitobans with ALS, their families and caregivers.

As well, the organization builds public awareness of ALS and its impact on society, while supporting research into the cause and cure for ALS.

Each year the ALS Society of Manitoba celebrates the past year and the future by lighting 12 holiday trees in front of the Brummitt Feasby ALS House.

This one of a kind home in St James, supports clients and families living with ALS.

"We thank the students from Vincent Massey High School who have been part of our Lite up a Life Program, helping to set up the trees," says Rasmussen.

The ALS Society of Manitoba remember fondly those who have passed away from ALS, those who currently live with ALS and think of those who may be diagnosed in the future.

The Society provides education, support, equipment, communication, and leverages partnerships as well as raising dollars for this costly disease which is one of the mandates of ALS Manitoba.

Join the ALS Society for their Cornflower Gala on April 29 at the Victoria Inn and Convention Centre, the Walk for ALS on June 17 at Assiniboine Park or our ALS Golf Classic Sept. 7 and be part of the action.

Help make ALS treatable not terminal and be part of the change to improve quality of life for people living with ALS.

For more information call 204 831 1510 or visit alsmb.ca.

CONTRIBUTED

ALS SLA
ALS SOCIETY OF MANITOBA
LA SOCIETE MANITOBAINE DE LA SLA

You are cordially invited to the

2017 CORNFLOWER *Gala*

Saturday, April 29, 2017
Victoria Inn and Convention Centre
1808 Wellington Avenue, Winnipeg
(Semi-Formal Attire Requested)

Gala Tickets $150.00
6:00 pm Cocktails 7:00 pm Dinner
(Partial Charitable Tax Receipt(s) to be Issued)

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FESTIVITIES RAISE FUNDS FOR MANITOBA CHARITY

On May 13, as live circus performers complete acrobatic feats, trampoline artists flip, BMX riders perform tricks and the Big City All Star Band gets the crowd moving, they will be doing far more than just entertaining. That's because the festivities are part of efforts to raise funds for Variety, the Children's Charity of Manitoba.

"Variety's Under the Big Top Gold Heart Gala is one of the most significant ways in which we raise our revenues," says Tammy Hildebrand, the organization's director of marketing and development. "Last year, we raised $400,000 net and we are projecting that we will do that again this year."

While the gala is Variety, the Children's Charity of Manitoba's biggest yearly event, the organization has been positively impacting the lives of children in a wide range of ways since it was first established in the province 39 years ago.

"We really work to nurture development, champion health and be advocates for ability," says Hildebrand. "We recognize some of the challenges faced by children and their families and that's where our mandate comes in to step in and improve their quality of life."

As a result of that mandate, Variety, the Children's Charity of Manitoba has launched and become involved in initiatives that include providing funding for weekly music therapy programming in 12 different schools in the city, partnering with 15 inner city schools to provide students with free oral and dental care each year, approving funding for items such as wheelchairs, hearing aids and walkers through its Special Needs Committee and ensuring that each summer all children get to experience the thrill of camping with its Variety's Camp Brereton.

"In almost 40 years, we have raised $30 million in Manitoba and touched the lives of 800,000 children with special needs or those impacted by socio-economic conditions," says Hildebrand. "We truly fill the health care gap by stepping in where health care ends."

LORIN IPSUM DOLOR SIT

There are numerous ways to support Variety, the Children's Charity of Manitoba, says Hildebrand. To learn more about making a meaningful contribution to the lives of children in Manitoba, visit varietymanitoba.com or e-mail Hildebrand at thildebrand@varietymanitoba.com.

Your seat is waiting for you!
variety
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Cruising through the Carolinas

ALL PHOTOS CRAIG COLE/AUTOGUIDE.COM

REVIEW

Drive boasts local cuisine and Equinox's best assests

Craig Cole
AutoGuide.com

At new-vehicle launches, it's always a bit suspicious when an automaker spends more time hyping the drive route or lunch stops than they do the product.

Chevrolet seemed proud of the area roads and local cuisine we would experience in the Carolinas when they invited AutoGuide.com down to Dixie for a test of their overhauled 2018 Equinox. There was no technical lecture or in-depth walkaround of this new compact crossover; only a marketing spiel on the second day. But this apparent caginess was unnecessary as the new Equinox is a solid product they have every right to be proud of.

One of their greatest feats was getting this vehicle to shed about 400 pounds, roughly a 10 per cent reduction. The body is nearly five inches shorter, something that helped, but this change had no ill-effect on utility. Maximum cargo capacity has been increased by around 99 litres. With the back seats folded down there's just shy of 1,812 litres available.

The Equinox's interior bears a strong resemblance to what's found in other recent Chevrolets. Largely made of low-sheen hard plastic, it nonetheless looks quite nice. There are high-quality soft materials where you want them, like the armrests and upper portions of the dashboard. Front or rear, seat comfort is admirable.

None of the offerings in the compact segment drive like sports cars and this Chevy's no exception. The 1.5-litre engine pulls strongest around 3,500 RPM. Power is adequate, but the vehicle is never particularly enthusiastic. Climbing the Blue Ridge Mountains around Asheville, North Carolina revealed that this crossover is a little taxed, moseying up the hills even at wide-open throttle. A full load of passengers and parcels would reduce vigor even more.

Still, on flatter terrain or lower elevations the performance provided is perfectly fine for a large swath of crossover customers. Buyers that want more giddy-up can always opt for the 2.0-litre engine.

If there's a downside to the way this vehicle drives it's the steering. I found it decently communicative but even with the optional lane-keep assist enabled the Equinox wanders, requiring constant correction to keep it within the lane markers.

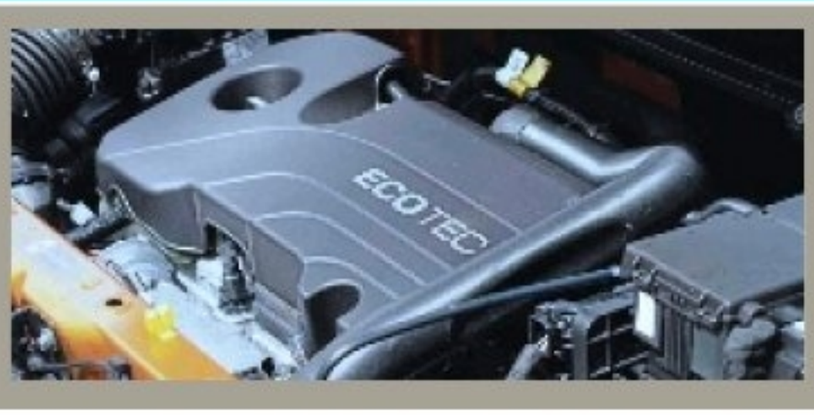
Equinox offers a wide range of advanced driver-assistance technologies including low-speed forward automatic braking; blind-spot monitoring; rear cross-traffic alert; a visual parking aid; and a vibrating safety alert seat.

The 2018 Equinox doesn't necessarily feel like a best-in-class crossover, but it's certainly one of the better offerings. Efficient and refined, spacious and tech savvy, there's no reason why it shouldn't give rivals a run for their money in an increasingly competitive segment.

THE CHECKLIST | 2018 CHEVROLET EQUINOX

THE BASICS

Engine: 1.5-liter turbo four-cylinder
Output: 170 horsepower, 203 pound-feet of torque
Transmission: 6-speed automatic
Fuel Economy (l/100 km): 9.0 city, 7.4 highway, 8.4 combined (est.)
Price: Starts at $26,995



LOVE IT

- Reasonable pricing
- Refined drivetrain
- Spacious interior
- Available diesel
- Fuel efficiency

LEAVE IT

- Not as spacious as a CR-V
- Seems to wander
- Could be quieter

3 GIMMICKY AUTOMOTIVE FEATURES

Cars today are packed with more features than ever before. While most were developed with good intentions, some end up being no more than an advertising line. You know the ones; these features attract an awful lot of attention and might seem great in theory, but never end up being truly useful in real life. On that note, here's a list, in no particular order, of some of the most gimmicky features on the market today. **DAN ILIKA/AUTOGUIDE.COM**

1 Rolls-Royce's fibre-optic headliner

As far as lighting systems go, the only thing more outlandish than Mercedes-Benz's Swarovski crystal headlights (don't even get us started) is this fibre-optic headliner offered by Rolls-Royce. Because buying a convertible to actually look at the stars is far too peasant-like, the automaker's bespoke division will gladly stitch you a headliner full of as many as 1,600 fiber-optic lights. And people say kids these days don't spend enough time outside.

2 Cadillac's rear camera mirror

Replacing a traditional rear view mirror with a camera display is a sign of the times. It's also a little too gimmicky for our liking. Cadillac claims this fancy digital display, which uses a rear-mounted camera to display a live look at what's behind the car, improves rearward vision by 300 percent compared to a traditional mirror. It's a great idea in theory, but we've tried using it before and just can't get used to it, so it ends up being pretty useless especially at night. Chalk this one up to the old if-it-ain't-broke adage.

3 Cabin perfume dispensers

Speaking of unpleasant odors, cruising around with an air freshener dangling from a rearview mirror is tacky, especially in a pricey premium vehicle. The solution, then, is to integrate fresh scents directly into the car's HVAC system. Mercedes-Benz and BMW have both done this, though it's hard to think of it as anything less than a neat trick to show off to friends. Just believe us when we tell you that the novelty will wear off quicker than the "energy of cool woodlands" scents brought on by BMW's Green Suite of smells.

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metro SPORTS

Tampa Bay Lightning head coach Jon Cooper will be bench boss for Team Canada at the world hockey championship in Paris next month

Bad blood in la belle province

NHL PLAYOFFS

Pacioretty says teams' styles too alike, rough series expected

When Montreal Canadiens fans think of the playoff series against the New York Rangers in 2014 they see Chris Kreider crashing into and injuring goalie Carey Price in the opening game.

The Canadiens insist that incident wasn't even discussed as they got ready to face Kreider and the Rangers again in Game 1 of their NHL Eastern Conference first round series on Wednesday night.

Captain Max Pacioretty, when asked about "the incident," thought it referred to the blind side hit by then Canadien Brandon Prust to Derek Stepan's jaw in Game 3 of that series, won in six games by New York with backup Dustin Tokarski in the Montreal net.

"That series got a little bit ugly with Prusty's hit on Steps there, but we're hockey players," Pacioretty said this week.

"Stuff happens and you move on. I know Stepan personally. I know a bunch of guys on their team. It's not one of those rivalries where you go out there and you're just thinking about how much you hate each other. It's more that our teams clash because our playing styles are so similar."

Canadiens fans will be hoping for good health against the Rangers this playoffs, especially when it comes to superstar 'keeper Carey Price, centre. PAUL BERESWILL/GETTY IMAGES

There are certainly similarities between the two clubs. Montreal finished first in the Atlantic division at 47-26-9 for 103 points. New York was fourth in the stacked Metropolitan at 48-28-6 for 102 points.

Both have a goalie considered among the best in the world in Price and the Rangers' Henrik Lundqvist.

They are two teams that play high-tempo hockey, with the Rangers holding the advantage on attack and the Canadiens a little better on defence.

Montreal's power play ranked 13th with a 19.6 per cent success rate this season while New York's was 12th at 19.8 per cent, although the Canadiens had the 14th best penalty kill while the Rangers were 21st.

It even extends to the two coaches. Montreal's Claude Julien and New York's Alain Vigneault are both from the Ottawa area, were minor league teammates as players in the St. Louis Blues organization and both got their first NHL jobs in Montreal.

"They play fast for 82 games and so do we," said Pacioretty. "You don't often see that. "Both teams are built for the playoffs in that sense. We feel we've been playing that way for a while now and I'm sure they feel the same."

They are both mainly healthy, although Canadiens defenceman Alexei Emelin will miss at least the opener with an undisclosed injury. Rearguards Shea Weber and Jordie Benn have both returned from late-season injuries.

Pacioretty left practice early Tuesday after an accidental high stick from Michael McCarron got under his visor but Julien said the team's medical staff were confident he will be able to play.

A major factor in Montreal's favour is in head-to-head meetings with New York. The Canadiens went 3-0-0 against them this season. Much of that comes down to the goaltenders.

Price is 15-5-1 with a 1.82 goals against average and .940 save percentage in his career against the Rangers while Lundqvist, who seems to have never quite got over blowing a 5-0 lead and losing to Montreal on Feb. 20, 2008, is 14-17-3 with a 2.57 average and .898 save percentage against Montreal.

Price had a laugh with the media this week but gave short, sometimes flippant answers to questions. Asked about the Kreider incident he said "it's a new day."

On whether the Rangers would invade his crease again, he said "yeah, that sounds like playoff hockey." THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **That series got a little bit ugly with Prusty's hit on Steps there, but we're hockey players.**
> Habs captain Max Pacioretty

SENATORS-BRUINS

Cassidy nervous ahead of series

Bruce Cassidy knows how to handle the pre-playoff jitters this time.

Returning to the Stanley Cup playoffs as a head coach for the first time since 2003, Ottawan Cassidy is trusting in his Boston team to smooth over some of the butterflies he feels before the first-round series against the Senators.

Bruce Cassidy GETTY IMAGES

"I'll have some nerves, but not a lot," he said after practice Tuesday as his team prepared to travel to Ottawa. "I feel good about our team."

Cassidy took over the Bruins on Feb. 7 when they fired Claude Julien — the winningest coach in franchise history — and the man who led the team to two Stanley Cup finals, including the 2011 championship. Boston won its first four games under the new coach and then added a six-game winning streak to clinch its first playoff berth since 2014.

In all, the Bruins have gone 18-8 under Cassidy, whose only other NHL head coaching experience was less than two seasons with the Washington Capitals in 2002-04.

"We've played pretty well since he was the captain of the ship," defenceman Kevan Miller said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Explosion halts game in Dortmund, Juve on top

The first-leg of the quarter-final between Borussia Dortmund and Monaco was called off and rescheduled for Wednesday after three explosions went off near the German team's bus as it set off for the match, injuring defender Marc Bartra.

Meanwhile in Turin, Paulo Dybala outshone his more famous Argentine compatriot Lionel Messi by scoring two goals to help Juventus beat Barcelona 3-0 in the first leg of their Champions League quarter-final on Tuesday.

Paulo Dybala GETTY IMAGES

Dybala broke the deadlock in the seventh minute and doubled his tally in the 22nd. Giorgio Chiellini added the third, 10 minutes after the break. Juventus will be wary for the second leg on April 19 after Barcelona's comeback from 4-0 down against PSG in March. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Trio added to Olympic team
Mikael Kingsbury, Justine Dufour-Lapointe and Andi Naude have been named to Canada's freestyle ski team for the 2018 Winter Olympics.

The three mogul skiers took advantage of their results over the past World Cup season to bypass the long and complex qualification process leading up to the 2018 Pyeongchang Games. Freestyle Canada used the results from several big events in 2017 to select three skiers. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Osuna activated by Jays
As expected, the Blue Jays activated closer Roberto Osuna ahead of their home opener. Osuna had been on the 10-day disabled list due to neck spasms.

Right-hander Casey Lawrence was optioned to triple-A Buffalo to make room. Toronto (1-5) faced Milwaukee (2-5) on Tuesday, the opening game of a nine-game homestand. THE CANADIAN PRESS

For the result of the Blue Jays' home opener go to metronews.ca

MLB

Yanks again ranked most-valuable club

Forbes ranks the New York Yankees as baseball's most valuable team for the 20th straight year and lists the Tampa Bay Rays with the lowest valuation.

$1.3B

The Blue Jays were 16th, valued at $1.3B billion.

Forbes said Tuesday it estimates the Yankees are worth $3.7 billion US, up 9 per cent from last year. The Dodgers are next at $2.75 billion, a 10 per cent increase. Boston was third at $2.7 billion, followed by the Chicago Cubs ($2.675 billion), San Francisco ($2.65 billion) and New York Mets ($2 billion).

At the bottom were the Rays ($825 million), Oakland ($880 million), Cincinnati ($915 million) and Cleveland ($920 million). THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MAKE IT TONIGHT

Crunchy Asian Chicken Salad

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

This salad's tender chicken and zippy dressing make it a great noon time meal, especially if it's a leftover dinner because then it was super easy too.

Ready in 22 minutes
Prep time: 10
Cook time: 12
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 2 chicken breasts
- 1/4 - 1/2 head of purple cabbage, thinly sliced
- 1/4 - 1/2 head of green cabbage, thinly sliced
- 2 carrots, shredded
- 1 red pepper, thinly sliced
- 1/2 cucumber, peeled and sliced
- 2 spring onions, sliced
- handful cilantro, chopped
- 1/3 cup peanuts, chopped (optional)

Dressing
- 1 Tbsp sesame oil
- 1 Tbsp soy sauce
- 1/2 tsp sriracha
- 1 Tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 tsp fish sauce
- 1 tsp sugar

Directions

1. Fill a skillet with water and season twith salt and peppe. Bring to a simmer. Place chicken breasts in water and cook 10 to 12 minutes, depending on how thick the breasts are. Remove and place on a clean plate. Use two forks to shred the chicken.

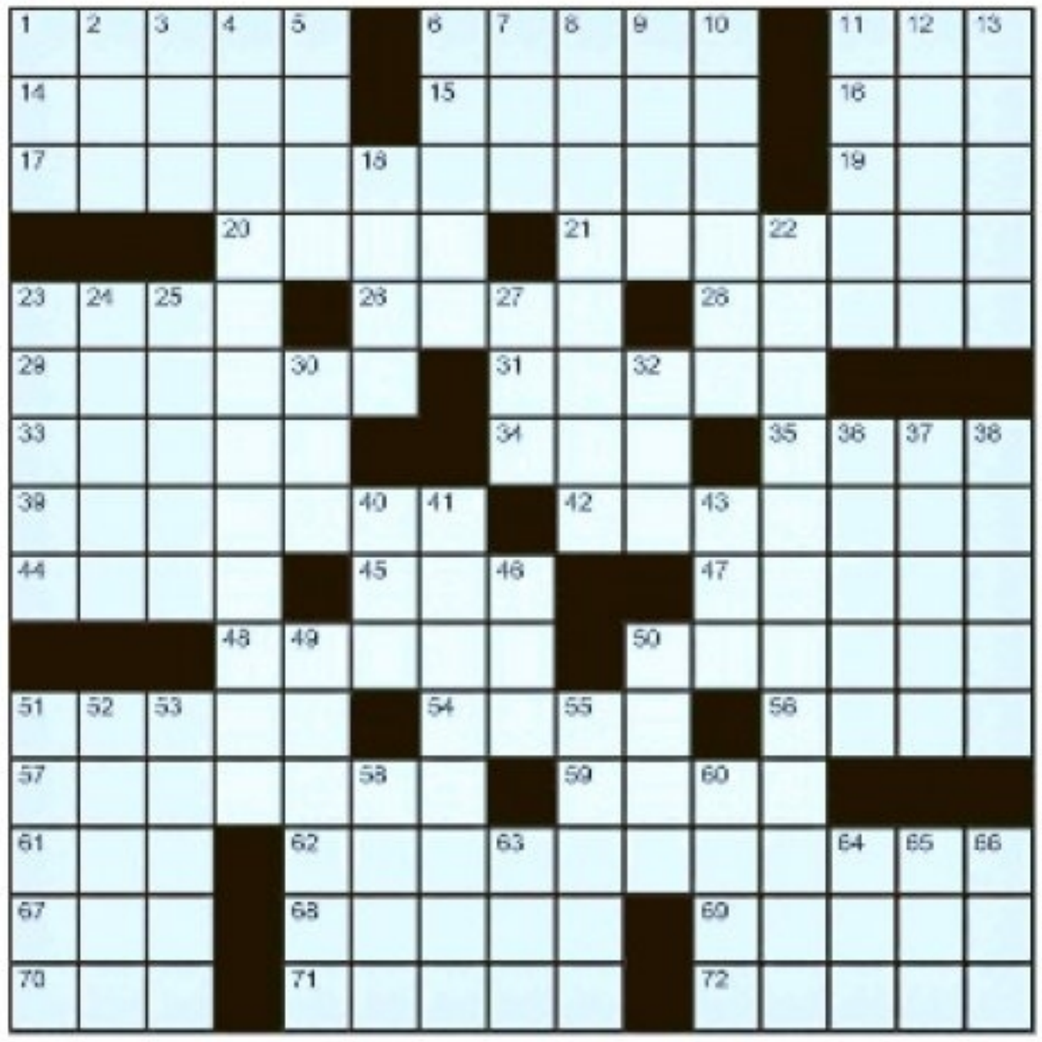
2. In a small bowl, whisk together dressing ingredients. In a large serving bowl, toss together vegetables and chicken. Drizzle dressing over salad and toss again.

3. Serve salad in bowls and garnish with cilantro and chopped peanuts.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. As such, Latin-style: 2 wds.
6. Harmonize
11. __-Jongg
14. Basketball great Shaquille
15. Cheerful
16. Expert
17. Entree at a Passover supper: 2 wds.
19. Bus or train, e.g.
20. Orderly
21. Toronto-born NHL head coach who is an Honoured Member of the Hockey Hall of Fame, Roger __ (b.1934 - d.2003)
23. House's li'l bottom
26. Cat's call
28. Cutlass __ (Former Oldsmobile model)
29. Not translucent
31. Last but not __
33. Maple serving
34. Father
35. Do this as Springtime snow
39. La Seigneurie de l'Ile d'__ (Botanical oasis in Quebec)
42. Painting like the real thing
44. Midday
45. Sport-__ (Versatile vehicle)
47. Leases
48. Pink Lady's date in "Grease" (1978)
50. Smitten: 2 wds.
51. Bing Crosby/Bob Hope comedy, "Road __ __" (1947)
54. 'Cont' completer (Italian noblewoman)
56. George Harrison's "__ It a Pity"
57. Eileen of "Private Benjamin" (1980)
59. Fe
61. French for 'goose'
62. Particular party in Springtime, such as at #4-Down: 2 wds.
67. Head motion for 'yes'
68. Cavern
69. Prefix to 'metre'
70. Nav. rank
71. "With this ring __ wed."
72. 'Delete' the pencil marks

DOWN
1. Disc in a 1990s fad game
2. 'Carot' completer
3. CFL official
4. New Brunswick town which is home to the Maple Capital of Atlantic Canada Festival, this year from April 11th to April 16th
5. Vogue competitor
6. Mountain ridge
7. File image type
8. London Fog togs
9. Massachusetts' motto starter
10. Morals
11. En __ (All together)
12. Donald Sutherland's profession
13. Reddish-brown hair rinse
18. Gentle
22. Pinky: 2 wds.
23. Higgs __, 'The God Particle'
24. __ the Dragon (Video game)
25. "That Girl" star Ms. Thomas
27. Antiquated
30. Kick __ __ fuss
32. Fruity drink
36. Clues
37. Ontario community
38. "Hmmm, I __ aware of that."
40. Rapa __ (Easter Island)
41. Power
43. Quid __ quo
46. Mr. McMahon's
49. Ornamental tree
50. Draped dress
51. Bluegrass musician, __ __ Burnett
52. The Hunter constellation
53. Props for clarinets
55. "Yes, __, Bob!" (For sure!)
58. Family tree member
60. Erstwhile
63. Queen's "We __ the Champions"
64. "Bird __ __ Wire" (1990)
65. Military posts, e.g.
66. "Yuck!"

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
This is a good day for important discussions about wills, inheritances, shared property and insurance issues. All parties involved will be reasonable and mutually sympathetic.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You might be able to mend broken fences with a partner or close friend today, because people feel sympathetic toward each other. It's a relatively easygoing day.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Co-workers are supportive today, especially in your efforts to get better organized. You might feel particularly tenderhearted toward a pet today.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
If you are involved in a creative project or the arts, you will be productive today because you are imaginative and open to new ideas. You also will feel sympathetic toward children.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You will enjoy cocooning at home today, because you feel the need to pamper yourself and take it easy. Family discussions will be gentle and sympathetic.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Your imagination is heightened today, which is good news for those of you who act, teach, write, sell and market. Trust your far-out ideas.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
If shopping today, you will be tempted to spend too much money on luxurious items. It's the age-old problem of having champagne tastes on a beer wallet.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Today the Moon is in your sign dancing with Neptune, which makes you sensitive to the needs of others. It also heightens your imagination.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You will find it easy to put the needs of others before your own today, because you feel somewhat selfless. You genuinely want to help anyone who is less fortunate. (This is admirable.)

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
A discussion with a female friend will be idealistic today. It also will be a bonding experience, because each of you will listen with sympathy toward the other person.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
People see you in a favorable light today, especially bosses, parents and VIPs. They see you as someone who is reasonable, sympathetic and kind.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Do whatever you can to get away from all this because you need to escape. You need fresh air and a chance to discover adventure! Travel somewhere, if possible.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

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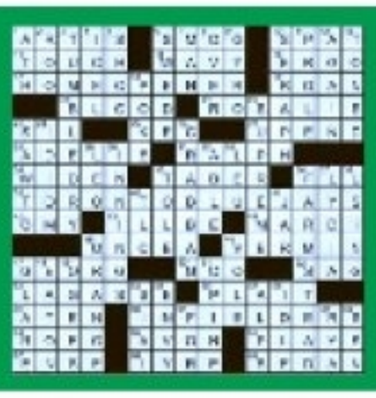

5	4	6	8	7	3	1	2	9
8	7	2	1	9	4	5	6	3
9	1	3	2	6	5	7	8	4
1	9	4	6	5	2	3	7	8
2	5	8	7	3	1	9	4	6
3	6	7	4	8	9	2	5	1
6	8	5	9	1	7	4	3	2
4	3	9	5	2	8	6	1	7
7	2	1	3	4	6	8	9	5

RECYCLE SOMETHING NEW

When you've eaten all of the ice cream, do you throw it in the blue bin?

MMSM
Multi-Material Stewardship Manitoba
INDUSTRY FUNDING RECYCLING

#KnowYourRecyclables

To find out more about MMSM and what you can and can't recycle, visit **simplyrecycle.ca**